

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /116 W

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R 290916Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1204

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUAL LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS TOKYO 11437

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, JA

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MEDIA ON US KOREA INITIATIVE

REF: TOKYO 11360

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF 7,000,000-PLUS CIRCULATION YOMIURI EDITORIAL WHICH SQUARELY ENDORSES US KOREA INITIATIVE. IT APPEARED FIRST IN VERNACULAR ON JUNE 25 AND WAS REPLAYED FOLLOWING DAY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE YOMIURI DAILY NEWS. THOUGH ONLY YOMIURI JUDGED THAT LAUNCHING OF INITIATIVE MERITED EDITORIAL, BOTH EMBASSY AND FONOFF CONSIDER MEDIA RECEPTION OF INITIATIVE TO BE QUITE POSITIVE. WE EXPECT "DIALOGUE" THEME TO BE A CONSTANT IN JAPANESE MEDIA ANALYSIS OF KOREA QUESTION AS DEBATE CREEPS TOWARD PERENNIAL NOVEMBER CLIMAX.

2. QTE. KOREAN DIALOG VITAL

US SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER THURSDAY CALLED FOR THE REOPENING OF DIALOG BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND PROPOSED THAT THE US, AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MEET THE TWO KOREAS IN NEW YORK DURING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION THIS AUTUMN TO DISCUSS ZHKOREAN ISSUE.

TO DISSOLVE THE UN COMMAND IN SOUHOREA IT IS NECESSARY TO CREATE A NEW PERMANENT ARMISTICE TO REPLACE THE 23-YEAR OLD ONE THAT ENDED THE KOREAN WAR. KISSINGER PROPOSED TQT A NEW ARMISTICE BE CREATED AT THE PROPOSED FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE AND WE SUPPORT THIS.

KISSINGER HAS RENEWED HIS CALL FOR A FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE, FIRST MADE LAST YEAR, BECAUSE TENSION IS STILL HIGH IN KOREA. ALTHOUGH THE MOOD FOR COEXISTENCE PREVAILS IN ASIA IN THE POST-VIETNAM PERIOD, THE SITUATION IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA, WHERE A COLD WAR STILL GOES ON BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH.

3. CONTROL TIGHTENED
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WHEN THE KIM DAE JUNG ABDUCTION CASE OCCURRED THREE YEARS AGO, NORTH KOREA DEMANDED THE RESTORATION OF FREEDOM IN SOUTH KOREA AND REFUSED TO FOSTER DIALOG WITH THE SOUTH. THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ZHTWO SIDES WAS INTENSIFIED AFTER THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

NORTH KOREA ASSERTS THAT IT SHOULD CONCLUDE A NEW ARMISTICE WITH THE US WITHOUT DEALING WITH SOUTH KOREA. IT IS ALSO TRYING TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH THE UN AND THE CONFERENCE OF NONALIGNED NATIONS. WE THINK THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXCLUDE SOUTH KOREA FROM TALKS TO CONCLUDE A NEW ARMISTICE.

NORTH KOREA ALSO DEMANDS THAT US TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTH KOREA BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW ARMISTICE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A WITHDRAWAL WOULD MEAN A LOSS OF DETERRENCE IN KOREA. WE DOUBT THAT NORTH KOREA, WHICH ADHERES TO THIS DEMAND, REALLY DESIRES A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE KOREAN ISSUE.

4. DOUBT GOOD FAITH

SOUTH KOREA, FOR ITS PART, ASSERTS THAT IT AND NORTH KOREA SHOULD BEGIN BY PROMOTING THE INTERCHANGE OF PERSONNEL. WE THINK THAT THE SOUTH, AWARE OF THE FACT THAT NORTH KOREA DOES NOT WANT TO PROMOTE THIS KIND OF INTERCHANGE, DOES NOT REALLY HOPE TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE NORTH.

SOUTH KOREA HAMPERED THE FOSTERING OF DIALOG BY TIGHTENING CONTROL OVER ITS PEOPLE AND CAUSING THE KIM DAE JUNG ABDUCTION CASE. AS THE DEMAND FOR DEMOCRATIZATION AROSE IN SOUTH KOREA, THE GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO TIGHTEN ITS CONTROL OVER ITS PEOPLE FURTHER IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POWER.

THE FIRST THING TO BE DONE TO SETTLE THE KOREAN ISSUE IS TO RECOGNIZE THE COEXISTENCE OF NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA AND TO ELIMINATE DANGEROUS CONDITIONS
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IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THIS IS WHY WE SUPPORT KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL.

WE ALSO HOPE THAT CHINA WILL ACCEPT KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL AND PERSUADE NORTH KOREA TO TAKE PART IN THE PROPOSED FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE. UNQUOTE.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMISTICE, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO11437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760293-0157
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976077/aaaaafzg.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 11360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE MEDIA ON US KOREA INITIATIVE
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, JA, UNGA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006